

NSC BRIEFING

27 August 1953

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**BRITAIN-ICELAND**

- I. There may be incidents between Iceland and the UK if Iceland holds to its intentions to deny its coastal waters to British commercial fishermen.
- A. Iceland has announced that on 1 Sept it will enforce 12 mile limit (previously British could fish up to 4 mile line).
- B. British plan to use force to protect their historic fishing rights.
- II. Experts from Iceland and seven other NATO countries now meeting in Paris to seek compromise.
- III. However, should no compromise be reached by 1 Sept, Iceland, which does not have the patrol planes and ships necessary to enforce new limit, threatens to call on US forces in Iceland to "defend" country under US-Iceland Defense Agreement of 1951.

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